

# **EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence City Hall**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

## **School Committee Special Meeting**

**February 24, 2009**

### **Open Session**

**Mr. Carcieri, Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. School Committee Members present: Luisa Abatecola, Robert Faria, Steven Santos, Anthony Carcieri. Also present: Dr. Mario Cirillo, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Edward Daft, Mr. Lonnie Barham and Mr. Daniel Kinder, Esq.**

**Mr. Carcieri, Chairman, asked for a motion to convene in Executive Session for purposes of discussing: Collective Bargaining: Teachers' Contract, Teacher Assistants' Contract and Custodians' Contract - R.I. Gen. Laws § Section 42-46-5 (a) (2), Litigation: R.I. Gen. Laws § Section 42-46-5 (a) (2). A motion was made by Mr. Faria, seconded by Mr. Santos to move to Executive Session. Vote 4-0.**

**Mr. Carcieri reopened open session, and asked for a motion to convene in Executive Session for the purposes of discussing:**

**Personnel: Two Individuals - R.I. Gen. Laws § Section 42-46-5– (a). It was announced that those two individuals had been notified in writing that the Committee intended to convene in Executive Session to discuss his/her job performance, and that each had declined to have the discussion take place in open session. Mr. Carcieri also sought a motion to convene in Executive Session for the purposes of work sessions pertaining to (1); Collective Bargaining: specifically with regard to the Teachers' Contract, Teacher Assistants' Contract and Custodians' Contract - R.I. Gen. Laws § Section 42-46-5 (a) (2); and Litigation: R.I. Gen. Laws § Section 42-46-5 (a) (2). A motion was made by Mr. Santos, seconded by Mr. Faria to move to Executive Session. Vote 4-0.**

**The School Committee returned to Open Session at 7:00PM. Five members were present. The Pledge of Allegiance & a Moment of Silence were observed.**

**Mr. Barham reported that a vote had been taken in Executive Session to accept the resignation of Mr. Jerome Baron from the position of Director of Finance/Administration. Unanimous vote 4-0, Mrs. Abatecola, Mr. Faria, Mr. Santos and Mr. Carcieri. (Mrs. Barbosa was not present for the vote in executive session). Motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session by Mr. Santos, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Vote 5-0.**

**Report of Superintendent and Staff**

**Personnel Recommendations – Mr. Lonnie Barham presented the following items:**

## **APPOINTMENTS**

**Amoy Williams Supervisory Assistant-TBD**

**Tina Motta Supervisory Assistant-Kent Heights Elementary**

**Motion: Mr. Faria/Second: Mr. Santos. 5-0.**

## **Contract Non-Renewals (Layoffs close of 2008-2009 school year)**

**55 Teachers as listed: The below listed layoffs are the result of budgetary constraints caused by the uncertainty of sufficient local, Federal and State funding for educational programs for the 2009-2010 school year and the resulting possibility of elimination of programs and/or positions.**

## **NAME LOCATION SUBJECT TAUGHT**

**Kimberly Markarian EPHS ART**

**Christie Sullivan RMS ENG**

**Danika Bishop EPHS ENG**

**Jessica Poore MMS ENG**

**Tara Grabowski MMS/ORLO PSYCHOLOGIST**

**Frederick Lanz RMS MATH**

**Stephan Crawley EPHS ENG**

**Alison Bienenfeld EPHS ENG**

**Caitlyn Coulombe MMS MATH**

**Jennifer Sawyer EPHS ENG**

**Demitra Wilder ORLO SPEECH PATHOLOGIST**

**Nicole Martone MMS MATH**

**Jennifer Lodge ORLO GRADE 3**

**Melissa O'Neil OLD READING**

**Cynthia Lachapelle EPHS SPEC ED**

**Sheri Mancinho OLD GRADE 1**

**Maryanne Korney EPHS SPANISH**

**Angelo Pizzi EPHS SPEC ED**

**Virginia Miller MMS/RMS/WADD SOCIAL WORKER**

**Cindy Mello MMS SPEC ED**

**Oslem Lamontagne EPHS MATH**

**Sharon Cardin-Prochniak EPHS BUSINESS**

**Jade Sisti EPHS ART**

**Tarah Szczepanek HENN SPEC ED**

**Meredith Kinash EPHS SPEECH PATHOLOGIST**

**Sean Trainor EPHS ENG**

**Holly DaSilveira MMS READING**

**Daniel Cabral HENN/OLD PHYS ED**

**Kelly Fontaine\*\* EPHS PHYS ED**

**Mary Ellen Hatch CTC CULINARY ARTS**

**Nicole Sousa\* EPHS MUSIC**

**Liliya Krys\* EPHS ART**

**Tricia Barry MMS ART**

**Christal DaSilva EPHS ENG**

**Jennine Cerra HENN/WHITE LIBRARY**

**Emilie Joost EPHS NURSE**

**Amy Giammarco EPHS MATH**

**Ray Pinson CTC AUTO TECH**

**Lauren Salzillo\*\* ORLO GRADE 1**

**Alisha Shorts\*\* RMS ENG**

**Nicholas Hurd HENN/SS MUSIC**

**Matthew Pierce EPHS PHYSICS/SCIENCE**

**Bernadette Moonan OLD KINDERGARTEN**

**Ashley Stringfellow HENN KINDERGARTEN**

**Kristin Trahan\*\* EPHS BUSINESS**

**Allison Hunt MMS SCIENCE**

**Kathleen Martin MEAD PRE-K /SPEC ED**

**Stefanie Luft OLD/SS SPEECH PATHOLOGIST**

**Macia Cady EPHS READING**

**Michelle Lamothe WADD NURSE**

**Michelle Malmstrom\*\* MMS SPEC ED**

**Amanda Alferos EPHS SOCIAL STUDIES**

**Susan Coffey RMS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST**

**Kirsten Calia\*\* CTC OCCUPATIONALHEALTH/BIOMED**

**Marcia Goggin\* OLD GRADE 3**

**Reasons for layoff in addition to budgetary constraints:**

**\*\* A Senior Teacher Returning From Leave**

**\* The School Department's belief that it can find a better teacher to fill this non-tenured position**

**Motion: Mr. Faria/Second: Mr. Santos. Discussion: In response to a question about layoff notices, Mr. Barham explained that notices had been sent to 106 teachers originally then the list was pared down to 55. The Superintendent recommended approval; most are junior teachers (55 least senior teachers due to teachers returning from leave, etc.) Mr. Faria commented that we bring in the young teachers, prepare them, and send them off to work some place else; this is disheartening to both School Committee and parents. Mr. Barham said he worked long hours on interviewing and hiring teachers, but we have to have flexibility in these economic times in case revenue source do not arrive and that historically, most are rehired and he is hopeful of that. Dr. Cirillo related that he hopes to recall the vast majority, but layoffs are part of the process.**

**Mrs. Barbosa asked about English teachers at high school . Mr. Barham said in that case, the vast majority will be called back. He explained that all received notices of non tenure. Mr. Santos said this is not something anyone wants to do, but state law mandates it. Last year it was attempted to put the layoff deadline at the end of the year, but that did not happen. He hoped that we can get these teachers**

back; the School Committee did not have a choice but to do this. Roll Call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, nay; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye. Vote 4-1 in favor.

## **RETIREMENTS**

**Priscilla Horton (24.6) 2/13/09**

**Reading**

**Specialist /Head Teacher**

**Silver Spring**

**Elementary**

**Nancy Mello (19 years) 2/13/09**

**Bus Assistant**

## **Resignation**

**Isabel Salzillo (effective immediately)**

**Supervisory**

**Assistant**

**Kent Heights Elementary**

Communication from RIDE – Dr. Cirillo received a letter dated February 23, 2009 from RIDE's Deputy Commissioner/General Counsel, David V. Abbott, regarding the additional testing time provided to third grade students at Whiteknact School following the regularly scheduled 2008 ELA and Math NECAP examination; the test results of these students will be removed from the calculation of scores for Whiteknact School. Although there was no malicious intention on the part of the teacher, the Department is requiring that the testing coordinator attend RIDE training for the 2009 NECAP examinations and that the district submit a monitoring plan for the

**2009 tests at Whiteknact no later than September 15, 2009.**

**Mrs. Barbosa asked how the number of fourteen students was determined. Mr. Daft advised that the district waited for the letter from RIDE before notifying parents. Mrs. Barbosa was advised by Mr. Ponterelli at RIDE that this matter was still under investigation. Dr. Cirillo advised that as far as he is concerned, this is a closed issue; he waited some time for a response from RIDE; he was advised that because the district acted promptly in notifying RIDE, the result would be removing the test results of these students from the calculation of scores for Whiteknact School. Mrs. Barbosa said she was not happy with sweeping this under the rug; she believes the issue is bigger and she should have been questioned about it; he child will receive a zero and did nothing wrong. Mr. Faria asked if there was any indication that this was bigger than first thought. Dr. Cirillo will make a follow up call to Mr. Ponterelli at RIDE.**

### **Unfinished Business**

**Administrative Restructuring Plan – A motion was made by Mr. Santos to approve the plan, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0. Mrs. Abatecola asked if students who are now integrated at Orlo will be moved to Watters School. Dr. Cirillo is looking at other locations beside Watters and a meeting will be held with RIDE specialists to discuss options. He will find the best place for students and is looking at an imbedded model with Bradley also. Roll call vote: Mrs.**



**Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye. Vote 5-0.**

**Wellness Sub-Committee – Motion by Mrs. Barbosa to approve, seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.**

### **Public Comment**

**Priscilla Souza – 30 Redlyn Avenue – Has never seen teachers at her school do anything dishonest; principals monitor and would not tolerate this. She raised her daughters with the help of teachers who provided them with a good education.**

**Jodi Audette – Regarding the classroom at Orlo Avenue School, the goal is to integrate; she urged School Committee to visit the program.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Faria to adjourn at 7:45PM, seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Shannon Barbosa, Clerk of the Committee**